

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 101036Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2741

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

EUCOM

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: RPP ELECTS NEW DEPUTY SECGENS

REF: ANKARA 1852

1. REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MET MARCH 9 AND ELECTED ALI TOPUZ, DEPUTY FROM ISTANBUL, AND HASAN ESAT ISIK, FORMER DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTER AND CURRENTLY DEPUTY FROM BURSA, AS DEPUTY SECGENS. ISIK'S ELECTION REPRESENTED A RAPID RISE SINCE UNTIL MARCH 8 HE WAS NOT EVEN A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD. INFACHT HE ONLY JOINED THE RPP IN 1973.

2. PARTY CHAIRMAN ECEVIT AND THE SPOKESMEN FOR THE TWO MAJOR FACTIONS WHICH BATTLED OVER CONTROL OF THE PARTY MACHINERY OVER THE WEEKEND MADE STATEMENTS MARCH 9 DESIGNED
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TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE DIFFERENCE WITHIN THE PARTY RANKS WAS

ONE OF FORM AND NOT OF SUBSTANCE. ECEVIT SAID THAT FIVE PERSONS (BAYKAL AND HIS FOUR SUPPORTERS) HAD RESIGNED FROM THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD BECAUSE OF DIFFERING VIEWS CONCERNING PARTY ADMINISTRATION AND TACTICS. HE SAID THAT THE RESIGNATION OF FORMER DEPUTY SEC GEN MUSTAFA USTUNDAG WAS NOT FOR THE SAME REASON; HOWEVER, BUT SIMPLY BECAUSE OF A BELIEF IN THE NEED TO ELECT A NEW CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF BAYKAL AND HIS FRIENDS.

3. ECEVIT ADMITTED THAT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO FACTIONS WERE CLEARLY IMPORTANT ONES, BUT ASSERTED THEY DID NOT REFLECT A BASIC DIFFERENCE IN PHILOSOPHY. HE SAID THE SPLIT IN TACTICS DID NOT INDICATE A WEAKNESS IN THE PARTY. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THOSE WHO HAD RESIGNED FROM THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD WOULD CONTINUE IN THEIR POSITIONS WITHIN THE PARTY ASSEMBLY AND PARLIAMENT AND WOULD CONTINUE TO GIVE VALUABLE ASSISTANCE TO THE PARTY. HE LIKEWISE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE NEW CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD WOULD INSURE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARTY WOULD BE CONDUCTED SO THAT DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS OF ALL WOULD BE PROTECTED.

3. COMMENT: MOST PRESS COMMENT MARCH 10 SUGGESTS THAT THE STRUGGLE WITHIN THE RPP", FAR FROM BEING OVER, HAS JUST BEGUN. CLEARLY THE SITUATION IS STILL IN FLUX. THOSE WHO LOST OUT IN THE SHUFFLE MARCH 8 CAN NOW BE EXPECTED TO CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS ON THE PROVINCIAL PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN HOPES OF RECAPTURING THEIR POSITIONS AT THE GENERAL PARTY CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR LATE THIS YEAR.
MACOMBER

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